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John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

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To: Joseph Jones

John Allen Chalk

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April 2, 1970

C
O
P
Y
Dr. Joseph Jones
Michigan Christian College
800 West Avon Road
Rochester, Michigan

Dear Joe:

Thank you for being such a congenial host and brother during the recent weekend in Lansing. I was thrilled at the outpouring of people for the Friday night service and hope that the same held true for the Saturday events. Your special leadership was so evident in the spirit of the meeting. Thank you so much for allowing me to be a part of it.

I realize how difficult it is for an "outsider" to make suggestions like I am about to make. Please know that you need not reply to me but rather "feed it" into the computer for any future use you might want to make of it.

As I indicated in the Friday night service, I feel so strongly about the lack of black participants in the Metropolitan Youth chorus. Even though you have no direct involvement with the chorus, I know you have a great influence with Gary and others. I hope that there can be some way, whether with some personal direct visits with black congregations, or through a special meeting with the black preachers, or through some kind of recruitment program to get, not just black young people but black young people who are qualified and who can bring their talents to this chorus. It seems to me that we must take a positive direct step rather than simply talking about the problems of better race relations within the church. I personally am convinced that the situation is not getting better and that only when we begin to take positive, direct steps with no fanfare and without notice, but taken positively and directly will we see improvement.

There are many other areas where I personally am trying to make my own influence felt but I did see such a great opportunity in this area and wanted to mention it to you.

Thank you again for asking me to be a part of your TAB meeting. I thoroughly enjoyed it. 12

Your brother,

John Allen Chalk
JAC:lc